

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,788). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, as agreed on during the December 14, 2006 personal interview with Examiner Payne, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest an optical pulse timing detection apparatus including at least an optical switch, a photo-detector, and a timing computation unit for computing timing of arrival of a predetermined signal beam pulse at the optical switch on the basis of the position information of the pixel and a time when a region corresponding to the pixel is brought into an on-state, as recited in claims 1 and 16.

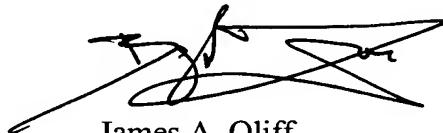
In stark contrast, Suzuki discloses a light scanning device for use in digital image forming apparatuses for electrophotography. The light scanning device of Suzuki, as shown in Fig. 1, merely includes laser beams A and B that are irradiated by laser diodes 12a and 12b, respectively, reflected by reflection mirrors 20a and 20b, deflected and divided by a polygon mirror 22, and used to scan an image area of a photoconductor 36. Suzuki, however, fails to disclose an optical pulse timing detection apparatus including at least an optical switch, a photo-detector, and a timing computation unit for computing timing of arrival of a predetermined signal beam pulse at the optical switch on the basis of the position information of the pixel and a time when a region corresponding to the pixel is brought into an on-state, as recited in claims 1 and 16.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16 define patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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